

## FLEET FOCUS

## CARAT bids farewell to Philippines

By Lt. Jane Tyler

DESTROYER SQUADRON 9 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES — After completing a series of bilateral training exercises, naval leaders from the Republic of Philippines and the United States said goodbye during a ceremony held recently in Subic Bay, Philippines.

"We leave your country with a good feeling about our experience here. We forged many friendships and learned a great deal about working together and training together," said Capt. Joseph Natale, CARAT 2000 Task Group commander.

Cooperation Afloat and Readiness Training exercises with the Republic of Philippines started June 14. Sailors and Marines assigned to Task Group CARAT 2000, in conjunction with the Philippine Navy, participated in a series of exercises designed to promote interoperability between Southeast Asian and U.S. naval forces.

"I am proud to proclaim that exercise CARAT has been a resounding success," said Capt.

Mariano S. Sontillansoa, exercise director for the Philippine forces. "Definitely, the Filipinos have learned a lot from this experience. This is a very good groundwork for our preparation towards the modernization of our armed forces."

During CARAT 2000 - Philippines, both groups engaged in amphibious landings, shipboard cross-deck training, improving seamanship skills, junior officer training, and maritime law enforcement.

Sailors and Marines from both countries took part in community relations, civic action projects and sporting events.

The event was the last part of CARAT 2000 - Philippines and marked the first time in four years an exercise of this magnitude has taken place in that area.

"We are thankful for the many opportunities we were afforded during our stay here. Teamwork is the key. Teamwork means we share a common ideal and embrace a common goal," said Natale.

"In the end, teamwork and CARAT can be summed up in five words. We believe in each other."

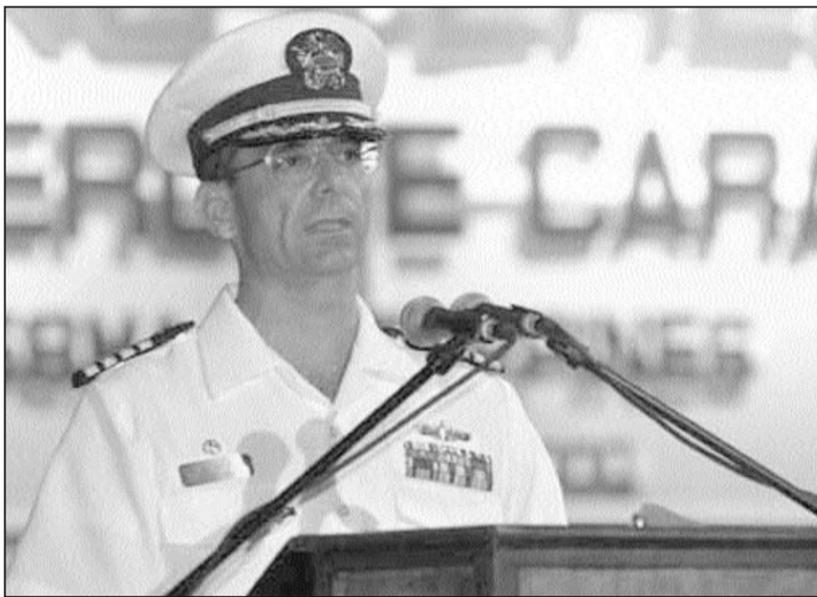


Photo by PH1 (NAC) Spike Call

Capt. Joseph Natale, commodore, CARAT Task Group 712.0 gives his final remarks at the closing ceremony for Philippine phase of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2000. CARAT is an annual series of bilateral training exercises between the United States and Southeast Asian navies designed to promote interoperability.

## Marines paint Parang Elementary School

'Lucky' lady, school gets aid

By Cpl. Benn Barr  
LANDING FORCE CARAT

TERNATE, PHILIPPINES- Locals call Evelyn Rosel "the lucky lady" at Parang Elementary School, here.

During the last six years, Rosel has served as head teacher at two different schools — both schools received assistance from U.S. troops in the area for military exercises.

Most recently, she welcomed Marines and Sailors of Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2000, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force who spruced up the school.

"When I came here last summer I thought of painting, Rosel said, but, there were no funds available. So, it is beneficial that your group came to do the painting with the equipment. I'm very thankful for that."

Navy chaplains helped make this civic action project possible. Lt. Cmdr. Robert Coyle, chaplain, LF CARAT and Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Jesse McDaniel purchased supplies thanks in part to Navy Lt. Tim Loney, chaplain, Destroyer Squadron 9.

McDaniel coordinated with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 to borrow two ladders, and the Marines and Sailors used their "adapt and overcome" mentality to turn spare pieces of scaffolding into handles for their paint rollers.

"It feels good to come out and help the people of the Philippines, to help people less fortunate than yourself," McDaniel said.

The most important part, according to Coyle was meeting the students and teachers and people of the town and developing good friendships. I think that's what community relations is all about," he said.

The Marines and Sailors of LF CARAT left their marks at the school where Rosel said she's already making plans for their next visit.



PH3 Paul G. Scherman photo

Hirofumi Hinata, a Sailor from the Japanese Destroyer JDS Kongou (DD 173), grabs a drink during the RIMPAC 2000 five-mile run on Ford Island July 3.

## Sporting events bring conclusion to RIMPAC 2000

By JO2(SS) Steven Vasquez

RIMPAC 2000 COMBINED INFORMATION BUREAU

The opportunity for U.S. Sailors to compete against those of seven other Pacific Rim nations was an extra bonus of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2000.

Eleven sporting events were held in Hawaii at the conclusion of the exercise.

The competitions, held June 30 through July 5, were the second half to events that Pearl Harbor Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) had offered at the beginning of RIMPAC.

The exercise was the largest maritime exercise in the Asia-Pacific region involving more than 22,000 people, 50 ships and 200 aircraft from seven nations. It concluded July 6 in Pearl Harbor.

"By bringing together the crews from different nations, we hope to see some long lasting friendships forged," said Frank Del Gaudio, Fleet Recreation Coordinator for Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"We've held these tournaments for the last few RIMPACs and always received nothing but positive

feedback from the fleet as well as other commands who have participated," said Del Gaudio.

This time we had more events than in previous years because we had more MWR commands that wanted to participate. Our yacht club wanted to hold an event so we tried sailing for the first time and the response was tremendous," he added.

The USS Coronado (AGF 11) flagship for Commander, Third Fleet, was well represented in the events as it took honors in sailing and basketball and winners in the men's and women's five-mile run.

Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Jim Christopher and Mess Specialist 2nd Class Evelyn White won the early morning event on Ford Island. Christopher is a two-time champion, having won during the 1996 RIMPAC sporting events.

"I love to come out to these events when a lot of people you normally wouldn't meet compete," said Christopher.

"There was a whole group from a Japanese ship and the Australians came out too. Winning is just icing on the cake — its fun to see all my shipmates come out and run."

One of those shipmates,

Robin Thiel, a Chief Personnelman was "happy to survive. I run a couple of times a week, usually three miles. I ran this at the beginning of RIMPAC and this time I cut off over one minute from the last time I ran. This is the second race I ever ran and I really enjoyed running races — for me it was just finishing."

Winners in other events were the USS Chicago (SSN 721) in bowling, the 169th Air Control Warning Squadron (Hawaiian Air National Guard) in softball, USS Fletcher (DD 992) in Soccer, Afloat Training Group MID-PAC in sand volleyball, CIN-PACFLT in indoor volleyball and local team Pearl Harbor Rage in roller hockey.

Coming out on top in the singles tennis competition was Operations Specialist 2nd Class Everett Mooney of USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and in the doubles match entrants from Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47) came out on top.

"With all the events that MWR offers, it gives the Sailors here another great and healthy way to spend liberty," White said. "If I ever come back to another RIMPAC, doing sporting events is something that I would recommend to anyone."

## Chosin changes command

By Lt. D. L. Richardson Jr.  
USS CHOSIN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Captain Peter R. Daspit relieved Capt. T. J. Gregory as commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) July 7.

Captain Gregory turned over command of the "War Dragon" to Capt. Daspit in an onboard ceremony held on the flight deck with 400 officers and crew, distinguished guests, and friends and family in attendance.

A reception was held immediately following the ceremony at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Tea House lanai.

Captain Gregory assumed command in May of 1998 as Chosin's fifth commanding officer. Following an inter-deployment training cycle, Capt. Gregory commanded Chosin on a superb six-month Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf deployment as Air Defense Commander for the USS Constellation (CV 64) Battle Group.

In addition to assuming duties as air defense commander, Chosin simultaneously assumed the role of on scene commander for Maritime Interception Operations

(MIO) in support of United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Chosin spent 42 days on MIO patrol and was the first Constellation Battle Group ship to conduct a non-compliant boarding of United Nations sanction violators in the Arabian Gulf.

After deployment, and following a Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA), Capt. Gregory saw Chosin through a successful Command Assessment of Readiness and Training. In just eight weeks after SRA, Gregory spent his last underway period with Chosin embarking Cruiser Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Five and assuming duties as the air defense commander for the joint Japanese and American Bilateral Force (BIF) in support of Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2000.

Captain Daspit's previous tours of duty include a division officer tour on board the guided missile cruiser Richmond K. Turner (CG 20) making two deployments to the Mediterranean.

Following an assignment at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Capt. Daspit returned to sea for sequential

tours as operations officer aboard the guided missile frigate USS Schofield (FFG 3) and guided missile cruiser USS Fox (CG 33).

Following attendance at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., Capt. Daspit served as executive officer aboard the fleet replenishment oiler USS Wichita (AOR 1).

After graduation from the Navy War College in Newport, R.I., and a follow-on tour with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-5 Directorate for Strategy and Policy, Daspit assumed command of the guided missile frigate USS Ingraham (FFG 61).

Upon completion of that tour, Daspit was assigned as the N3/operations officer for Cruiser Destroyer Group Five.

Daspit takes command of Chosin following his most recent assignment to the Bureau of Personnel, Surface Warfare Junior Officer detailer, Pers-412.

Captain Daspit and the officers and crew of Chosin are scheduled for their next deployment as air defense commander for the USS Constellation Battle Group in March 2001.

## A lookout for CARAT exercises



PH1(NAC) Spike Call photo

Pfc. Mashada Martinez watches as the troops riding in his armored assault vehicle "take the beach" in Ternate, Philippines. Martinez has been in the Marine Corps for 10 months and was deployed to Ternate in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2000. CARAT is an annual series of bilateral training exercises between the United States and Southeast Asian navies designed to promote interoperability.